

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ABF-01

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9898
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UPU, PORG

SUBJECT: UPU: MEETING OF GENEVA GROUP UPU SUBGROUP IN BERN, MAY 7

REF: STATE 110055

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF SUBJECT GG SUBGROUP MEETING ARE AS FOLLOWS.

A. BUDGETS FOR 1976 AND 1977: JAPANESE REP NIKKI, WHO HEAD OF COUNCIL'S FINANCE COMMITTEE, ADVISED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING PARTICULARLY NEW OR OUTSTANDING ABOUT THESE BUDGETS. FOR 1976. HE WAS SURPRISED AT 15 PERCENT INCREASE IN STAFF COSTS THOUGH SIZE OF STAFF NOT INCREASED; NIKKI WAS TOLD THAT INCREASES WERE DUE TO UN SYSTEMWIDE RAISE AND HE PLANS TO INQUIRE THOROUGHLY INTO THIS MATTER. HE ADDED THAT IF SALARIES FOR GS PERSONNEL WERE INCREASED IN UPU BY SAME MAGNITUDE AS IN GENEVA, ADDITIONAL COST TO UNION FOR 1976 WOULD BE \$600,000. FOR 1977, NIKKI NOTED BUDGET TOTAL DROPS SLIGHTLY UNDER 1976; THIS DUE TO NON-RECURRING 1976 EXPENSES OF OUTFITTING CAFETERIA AND PUTTING OUT NEW POST OFFICE LIST BUT HE ADDED THAT GS SALARY INCREASE HAD NOT BEEN CONSIDERED IN BUDGET DOCUMENT. THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL SAVINGS IN CUTTING BACK UNION POSTALE MAGAZINE FROM 12 TO 6 ISSUES YEARLY. HE ADDED THAT IMPLEMENTING NEW LANGUAGE SYSTEM WOULD CONSUME 8 PERCENT OF TOTAL 1977 BUDGET. U.S. REP MADE STATEMENT ALONG

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LINES PARA 2A(1) OF REFTTEL REGARDING GG VIGILANCE TO ENSURE

THAT BUDGET CEILING DOES NOT BECOME FLOOR. THIS VIEW RECEIVED BROAD SUPPORT. U.S. ALSO SUGGESTED OTHER BUDGET REDUCING TACTICS SUCH AS SUBSTITUTION OF COMPENSATORY TIME FOR OVERTIME, REDUCTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL STAFF AND GREATER SCRUTINY OF OFFICIAL TRAVEL.

B. CONTRIBUTIONS: IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT GROUP WOULD SUPPORT CONTINUED VIGOROUS REGULAR APPEALS FOR INCREASE IN MEMBER STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO UPU AND OPPOSE PROPOSAL OF DG THAT THESE APPEALS BE DISCONTINUED. U.S. PROPOSAL THAT GREATER EFFORTS BE MADE TO COLLECT ARREARAGES, HOWEVER, DID NOT RECEIVE WIDE SUPPORT. GENERAL VIEW WAS THAT IN ABSENCE OF CONSTITUTIONAL MEASURES PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR DEBTORS, UNION IS NOW DOING ALL IT CAN TO SECURE PAYMENT AND INCREASED EFFORT WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE.

C. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACCEPTED ICSC STATUTE IN 1975. MANY REPS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT UPU SHOULD NOT UNQUESTIONGLY ACCEPT PRONOUNCEMENTS OF ICSC BUT SHOULD DISCUSS THEM ON THEIR MERITS AND IMPLEMENT THEM ONLY IF JUSTIFIED. IT WAS ALSO BELIEVED THAT UPU SHOULD NOT BE RETICENT IN SUBMITTING ITS OWN PROPOSALS TO ICSC AND SHOULD ASK QUESTIONS WHEN NECESSARY.

D. STUDY OF UPU PREPARED IN 1975 BY ITALY: SUBGROUP UNANIMOUSLY THANKED ITALIAN FOR PREPARING STUDY ON ITS REQUEST.

E. ARGENTINE PROPOSAL TO CREATE NEW TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE AND FUND. EC IS NOW CONSIDERING ARGENTINE PROPOSAL MADE AT 1974 CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH NEW TECH ASST COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD BE SET UP ALONG LINES OF CCPS. SEVERAL SUBGROUP MEMBERS REPORTED THAT ARGENTINES NOW APPEAR TO BE PUSHING FOR CREATION OF NEW UPU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND FINANCED BY COMPULSORY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBER STATES BASED ON VOLUME OF POSTAGE RECEIPTS, IN LIEU OF NEW COMMITTEE. MOST CG MEMBERS (INCLUDING U.S.) STRONGLY OPPOSED BOTH ARGENTINE PROPOSALS AND STATED THEY WOULD FIGHT IT IN EC.

F. NEW LANGUAGE SYSTEM: THIS IGEM, AS ALL ITEMS CONCERNING LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGE SERVICES IN UPU, IS EXTREMELY DELICATE AND DEVISIVE ITEM WITHIN CG SUBGROUP. ACCORDINGLY, SUBGROUP DISCUSSED MATTER OF TRANSLATION SERVICES BRIEFLY AND GINGERLY AND WHEN NETHERLANDS DEL ATTEMPTED TO RAISE ISSUE OF SECOND OR THIRD OFFICIAL LANGUAGE, HE WAS RULED OUT OF ORDER BY CHAIRMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GRIER (UK) WHO NOTED AGENDA ITEM RELATED ONLY TO UPU DOCUMENTATION. LARGE NUMBER OTHER DELEGATIONS AGREED WITH THIS RULING AND NOTED IMPOSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING ANY SORT CG CONSENSUS ON THIS ISSUE. GIVEN SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED, IT WAS DECIDED THAT U.S. REP WOULD PASS ON U.S. VIEWS ON LANGUAGE MATTERS INDIVIDUALLY TO EC MEMBERS RATHER THAN UTILIZE CG FORUM FOR THIS PURPOSE.

2. IT WAS AGREED NEXT SUBGROUP MEET IN MAY 1977 AFTER

COMMITTEE MEETINGS BEGIN BUT BEFORE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND
PLENARY START. ABRAMS

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